

**Date:** July 16, 2014  
**To:** Members, Cultural Affairs Council  
**From:** Michael Spring, Director   
**Subject:** 2014-2015 Festivals and Special Events Grants Program (FEST) Panel Recommendations

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The FY 2014-2015 award recommendations for the Festivals and Special Events (FEST) Grants Program will be computed using the established funding formula for this program. The program's FY 2014-2015 total allocation and the recommended grant award amounts per Grantee will be presented to the Council for final review later this summer, after all of the "Spring Cycle" grants program panels have convened. Final grant awards are contingent upon the availability of funds in the Department's FY 2014-2015 budget, which is subject to the County's FY 2014-2015 Budget once adopted in September 2014.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council approve the funding of seventeen (17) grants for the FY 2014-2015 Festivals and Special Events Grants Program.

## **BACKGROUND**

The comprehensive year Festivals and Special Events Grants Program panel, chaired by Jorge Luis Lopez, convened on June 24, 2014 to review 17 applications requesting a total of \$1,250,000. The applicants were determined to be eligible based on the program's guidelines and criteria, and were designated by the panel as qualified for funding consideration. The Panel recommended funding 17 applications.

The Festivals and Special Events Grants Program is designed to support festivals and special events taking place in FY 2014-2015 which are coordinated and presented by legally incorporated 501(c)(3) not-for-profit Florida corporations and/or units of local government. The program operates with two categorical designations:

- 1) **Cultural Organizations** - those organizations whose missions predominantly emphasize close examination of artistic disciplines and present activities that occur primarily indoors.
- 2) **Community Organizations** - those organizations whose missions predominantly emphasize the celebration of heritages, arts and entertainment events and present activities that occur primarily outdoors.

Within each of these two categories, the applicant pool is divided into two levels for evaluation and funding consideration:

**Division A:** organizations with annual project budgets of more than \$1,000,000

**Division B:** organizations with annual project budgets between \$400,000-\$999,000

**Division C:** organizations with annual project budgets between \$150,000-\$399,999

Additionally, organizations must demonstrate an uninterrupted track record of producing the activity; a Board of Trustees/Directors; a professional staff leader/team; a reputation for programmatic excellence and credibility on a local, regional, national or international level; effective, broad reaching marketing strategies; and matching funds from the private sector.

The Festivals and Special Events Grants Program operates on a three-year review cycle. FY 2014-2015 marked the beginning of a new, three-year cycle. In the first year of the cycle (FY 2014-2015), a comprehensive application submission was required, and a full panel review was conducted. In the subsequent two years of the cycle (FY 2015-2016 and 2016-2017), a more streamlined application form and review process is employed. Grants awarded in the FY 2014-2015 cycle of the program define the grant award level for the remainder of the cycle, subject to annual adjustments to award level based on organizational budget information, and contingent upon the availability of funding and upon a satisfactory review and recommendation of the interim applications by the Department of Cultural Affairs, the Festivals and Special Events Panel interim year review committee and the Cultural Affairs Council. Grantees are required to satisfy all program criteria, as well as prior year's reporting requirements to be eligible for renewed funding.

A complete list of the recommendations is attached.

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
FY2014-15 FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS GRANTS PROGRAM**

**Cultural Organizations Division A**

**Miami Dade College  
*Miami Book Fair International***

***Award: to be calculated based  
upon FEST funding formula***

Funds are requested to support the Annual Miami Book Fair to be held November, 2014 in downtown Miami. The literary festival, the largest and finest of its kind in the United States, transforms the Wolfson Campus of Miami-Dade College into the center of the literary world for 8 days. Over 300,000 book lovers, locals and visitors from throughout the United States and other countries visit downtown Miami to enjoy more than 300 acclaimed authors reading from their books and participating in panel discussions.

**Miami Dade College  
*Miami International Film Festival***

***Award: to be calculated based  
upon FEST funding formula***

Funds are requested to support the presentation of the annual Miami International Film Festival to be held March, 2015 in downtown Miami and South Beach. This multi-event film extravaganza, recognized as one of the top film festivals in the United States, brings as many as 65,000 individuals to the Gusman Center, South Beach and the sands of Miami Beach over its 9-day run, while various other events surrounding the festival will draw additional people to Miami-Dade County.

**National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts, Inc.  
*Young Arts Week***

***Award: to be calculated based  
upon FEST funding formula***

Funds are requested to support youngARTS Week to be held January, 2015. youngArts Week is the annual result of NFAA's Arts Recognition and Talent Search (ARTS), a nationwide campaign to identify and recognize America's most talented 17 and 18-year-old dancers, actors, musicians, photographers, vocalists, writers, architects and visual artists. youngARTS Week rewards up to 141 of the most talented ARTS candidates with an all-expenses paid week in Miami-Dade County, where these national finalists participate in auditions and master classes, and perform or exhibit at artistic showcases which are open to the public free of charge.

**The Music Association of Miami  
*The Cleveland Orchestra, Miami***

***Award: to be calculated based  
upon FEST funding formula***

In January 2015, "Cleveland Orchestra Miami" (COM) will present its eighth season of concerts and education and community engagement activities in Miami-Dade County. The concerts are performed by the world-class Cleveland Orchestra under Music Director Franz Welser-Möst and Principal Guest Conductor Giancarlo Guerrero. The centerpiece of the season is the Orchestra's concert series that takes place throughout November-April each year at the Adrienne Arsht Center's John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall.

**Cultural Organizations Division B**

There were no applications that applied to Cultural Organizations Division B

## **Cultural Organizations Division C**

### **Inffinito Art & Cultural Foundation, Inc. *Brazilian Film Festival***

***Award: to be calculated based upon FEST funding formula***

Funds are requested to support the Annual Brazilian Film Festival of Miami, the only film festival in the world exclusively of Brazilian cinema. The festival showcases approximately 40 Brazilian films and brings more than 200 actors, distributors and exhibitors of the international film industry. The festival takes place June, 2015 at two locations in Miami Beach over its week-long run. The festival also features a Brazilian marketplace, seminars, workshops open to the public with free admission.

### **Miami Bach Society, Inc. *Tropical Baroque Festival***

***Award: to be calculated based upon FEST funding formula***

Funds are requested to support the Miami Bach Society's Tropical Baroque Music Festival 2015, a series of eight early-music concerts performed in venues throughout Coral Gables. The festival features local, national, and international performers of the highest caliber, performing the works of composers before the 19th centuries. The festival takes place from Feb-March, 2015.

### **Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival *Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival***

***Award: to be calculated based upon FEST funding formula***

Funds are requested to support the fourteenth Annual Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, to be held April - May, 2015. The Miami Festival will boast an impressive array of films including features and shorts, panel discussions and events across its 10 day event.

### **Patrons of Exceptional Artists, Inc. *Miami International Piano Festival***

***Award: to be calculated based upon FEST funding formula***

Funds are requested to support the Annual Miami International Piano Festival - Discovery Series being held May, 2014 at the Colony Theater on Miami Beach. This 5-day music festival spans two weekends and presents United States debut recitals by the world's most promising young pianists. The overall quality of the festival and its unique programming attract the participation of important musical scholars, producers, filmmakers and writers who participate as guest lecturers.

### **University of Miami, Frost School of Music *Festival Miami***

***Award: to be calculated based upon FEST funding formula***

Funds are requested to support the Annual Festival Miami, which presents a diverse and impressive line-up of concerts in South Florida. The Festival encompasses over 20 concerts each year, featuring world renowned artists and the brilliant students and faculty of the Frost School. Last year, Gloria Estefan, Joshua bell, Edgar Meyer, Arturo Sandoval, Luis Enrique, Dr. John, Christian McBride, and others joined Festival Miami's 30th anniversary season.

## **Community Organizations Division A**

### **Coconut Grove Arts and Historical Association Coconut Grove Arts Festival**

***Award: to be calculated based upon FEST funding formula***

Funds are requested to support marketing costs for the Coconut Grove Arts Festival, one of the largest and most prestigious events of its kind the world. Held during President's Day weekend, the festival draws over 150,000 people to Miami from throughout Florida, the United States, Canada, Latin America and Europe. More than 336 internationally acclaimed artists selected from over 1,600 applicants exhibit in 11 categories. The festival is ranked as one of the top five arts festivals in the country by Sunshine Artist Magazine.

### **Florida International University South Beach Wine and Food Festival**

***Award: to be calculated based upon FEST funding formula***

Funds are requested to support the annual South Beach Wine and Food Festival to be held in February, 2015 in Miami Beach. The festival hosts a blend of industry celebrities, world class seminars and tastings, and exclusive dinners providing an innovative and unique four-day epicurean experience. The centerpiece of the festival is the Grand Tasting Village, featuring seminar tents offering educational opportunities in the culinary arts such as chef chats, demonstrations, and cultural and lifestyle seminars.

## **Community Organizations Division B**

### **Junior Orange Bowl Committee, Inc. Jr. Orange Bowl Festival**

***Award: to be calculated based upon FEST funding formula***

Funds are requested to support the Annual Junior Orange Bowl Festival. The festival brings together more than 12,000 youth from 60 countries and throughout the United States and includes drawing, photography, the cultural arts, chess, sporting events and "The World's Largest Youth Parade." There are 20 varied cultural and sporting events from October 2014 to March 2015.

### **Miami-Broward One Carnival Host Committee Inc. Miami Carnival**

***Award: to be calculated based upon FEST funding formula***

Funds are requested to support the annual Celebration of Miami Carnival. Events feature bands, costumed masquerades, calypsos, food and thousands of spectators. The festival attracts and engages the leading costume designers, musicians, and visual artists, paying homage to the Caribbean Diaspora community based in the South Florida.

### **Miami Design Preservation League Art Deco Weekend**

***Award: to be calculated based upon FEST funding formula***

Funds are requested to support MDPL's three day festival in January called Art Deco Weekend (ADW). ADW celebrates the architecture and culture of Miami Beach's Art Deco District. MDPL will produce, promote and present ADW for the thirty seventh time in January of 2015.

**Community Organizations Division C**

**Bayfront Park Management Trust  
2014 New Years' Eve Celebration**

***Award: to be calculated based  
upon FEST funding formula***

Funds are requested to support Downtown Miami's 2015 New Year's Eve Celebration on December 31, 2014 in Bayfront Park. This event is the largest free New Year's Eve celebration in South Florida, providing a safe, nonalcoholic, family-oriented environment to ring in the new year. The event includes a 50-foot holiday tree, a menorah lighting ceremony and the Big Orange's ascent and fireworks over Biscayne Bay.

**Dade Heritage Trust, Inc.  
Dade Heritage Days**

***Award: to be calculated based  
upon FEST funding formula***

Funds are requested to support Dade Heritage Days, a County-wide celebration of Miami-Dade's history, architecture and culture held March 1 - April 30, 2015. Dade Heritage Days features over 60 events throughout the community, including historic walking, biking, and trolley tours, architectural lectures, educational boat trips, neighborhood open houses, film festivals, folk concerts, art and antique exhibits and historical reenactments.

**German American Social Club  
Oktoberfest**

***Award: to be calculated based  
upon FEST funding formula***

Funds are requested to support Oktoberfest Miami, an annual major festival which celebrates German traditions. In keeping with the mission of the German American Social Club, the festival is open to the general public and aims at preserving, exhibiting and fostering German culture, traditions and folk life. The festival will be held October 2014 on the grounds of the German American Social Club of Miami. Attendance is expected to exceed 20,000.